



# FAIRHAVEN

## Bristol County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Fairhaven is a suburban/fishing/resort community on Buzzard's Bay. The town suffered both material damage and loss of life during the raids and battles of King Philip's war and significant settlement took place only after the war. Until the middle of the 18th century, the town's economy was agricultural. Beyond that point there is a shift toward maritime activities such as shipbuilding, whaling and foreign trade focussing on the town's wharves. By 1838, Fairhaven was the second busiest whaling port in the country and at its peak the town boasted 46 ships and 1,324 men engaged in bringing back over \$600,000 worth of whale products annually. Discovery of oil in Pennsylvania coming on the heels of a national depression ended whaling and the town turned to such industries as tack making. In 1903, the American Tack Company's new plant was said to be the largest and best tack mill in the world. Prominent Fairhaven resident Henry Huttleston Rogers went to Pennsylvania to learn about the oil industry and after making himself an oil millionaire, Rogers re-made his home town. He donated the town hall, library, church, schools, streets and water system. The buildings make up the state's finest collection of public buildings, almost all designed by Boston architect Charles Brigham. The community began taking on the character of a suburban town in the late 1870's when the street railway connected Fairhaven to New Bedford. At the same time Fairhaven began to develop as a summer resort area with significant rural areas still the site of working farms.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Acushnet on the north, Mattapoisett on the east, Buzzards Bay on the south, and New Bedford Harbor and New Bedford on the west. Fairhaven is about 15 miles southeast of Fall River; 55 miles south of Boston; 35 miles southeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 208 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 14.10 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 12.41 sq. miles

**Population:** 16,132

**Density:** 1,300 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(New Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.3"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Marion, New Bedford North, Sconticut Neck, New Bedford South

## Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and  
Economic Development District

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

New Bedford



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 992-5416

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1812

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	9,187		
Democrats	3,651	39.7	%
Republicans	709	7.7	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,827	52.5	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Fairhaven town, Bristol County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	16,159	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	16,159	100.0
Male.....	7,628	47.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	135	0.8
Female.....	8,531	52.8	Mexican.....	9	0.1
Under 5 years.....	757	4.7	Puerto Rican.....	64	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	965	6.0	Cuban.....	6	-
10 to 14 years.....	1,130	7.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	56	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	982	6.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	16,024	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	733	4.5	White alone.....	15,489	95.9
25 to 34 years.....	1,895	11.7	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	2,621	16.2	Total population.....	16,159	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,324	14.4	In households.....	15,784	97.7
55 to 59 years.....	892	5.5	Householder.....	6,622	41.0
60 to 64 years.....	710	4.4	Spouse.....	3,282	20.3
65 to 74 years.....	1,354	8.4	Child.....	4,524	28.0
75 to 84 years.....	1,263	7.8	Own child under 18 years.....	3,203	19.8
85 years and over.....	533	3.3	Other relatives.....	627	3.9
Median age (years).....	41.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	224	1.4
18 years and over.....	12,653	78.3	Nonrelatives.....	729	4.5
Male.....	5,824	36.0	Unmarried partner.....	379	2.3
Female.....	6,829	42.3	In group quarters.....	375	2.3
21 years and over.....	12,171	75.3	Institutionalized population.....	342	2.1
62 years and over.....	3,581	22.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	33	0.2
65 years and over.....	3,150	19.5	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,176	7.3	Total households.....	6,622	100.0
Female.....	1,974	12.2	Family households (families).....	4,251	64.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	1,831	27.7
One race.....	15,970	98.8	Married-couple family.....	3,282	49.6
White.....	15,565	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	1,331	20.1
Black or African American.....	97	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	730	11.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	42	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	383	5.8
Asian.....	71	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	2,371	35.8
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	2,017	30.5
Chinese.....	45	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	971	14.7
Filipino.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,004	30.3
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,120	32.0
Korean.....	3	-	Average household size.....	2.38	(X)
Vietnamese.....	6	-	Average family size.....	2.98	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	6	-	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	-	Total housing units.....	7,266	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	6,622	91.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	644	8.9
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	1	-	occasional use.....	413	5.7
Some other race.....	192	1.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	189	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	6,622	100.0
White.....	15,729	97.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,802	72.5
Black or African American.....	143	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,820	27.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	92	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.58	(X)
Asian.....	91	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.87	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	14	0.1			
Some other race.....	293	1.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 285

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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Fairhaven which is situated in the New Bedford-Fall River Area, has easy access to the air, land, and ocean transportation facilities of New Bedford, Fall River, and Providence.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 6 and Interstate Route 195.

### Rail

No rail passenger service exists in Fairhaven, but connections to all points can be made on Amtrak from Providence.

### Bus

Fairhaven is a member of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA), which provides fixed route service between New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett. SRTA and the Council on Aging also provide paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

### Other

Nearby New Bedford Municipal Airport is a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility with scheduled passenger flights. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,997' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

[The UMass Dartmouth Theatre Company](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Alden Court Nursing Care Center

Nichols House Nursing Home

Our Lady's Haven

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Center Green Rest Home

Mccormack Rest Home

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.